has not received the proposal. Such proposals are examined and approved as per the existing guidelines and statutory requirements.

Impact of climate change on Ganga River

2652. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the likely disastrous consequences of the climate change like disappearance of the Himalayan Glaciers after three decades, the holy Ganga river being reduced to a monsoon drain and over half a billion people facing serious water shortage as predicted by the Scientists; and

(b) if so, what precautionary measures have been visualized to avert the disasters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) According to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Inter Governmental Panel on Climate Change, the Himalayan Glaciers are receding faster than in any part of the world and, if the present rate continues, the likelihood of them disappearing by the year 2035 and perhaps sooner is very high if the Earth keeps getting warmer at the current rate.

The various scientific studies indicate that the glaciers of Himalaya including glaciers of major rivers like Ganga and Yamuna are receding at varying rates in different regions. Accordingly, due to melting of ice, consequent upon faster recession, the runoff of the Himalayan rivers may initially increase marginally. Thereafter, there may be decrease in water availability.

(b) A National Action Plan on Climate Change was launched in June 2008 which envisages the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Eco-system amongst its 8 National Missions. This Mission would seek to understand weather and the extent to which the Himalayan glaciers are in recession and how the problem could be addressed.

A new research centre on Himalayan Glaciology has been established at Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun. Guidelines and best practices for the governance for sustaining Himalayan Eco-system has been developed and shared with all State Governments in the Himalayan Region.

Restoration of Kolleru Lake Wildlife Sanctuary

2653. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the release and utilization of 'CAMPA' funds for restoration of Kolleru Lake Wildlife Sanctuary; and

(b) the progress made, so far, on the works relating to restoration of water channels for free flow of flood waters into sea and ecological restoration and afforestation of the area round the lake?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The funds from Ad hoc CAMPA have been released only after the constitution of State CAMPA as per the guidelines dated 02.07.2009, issued by the Ministry and as per the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 12.07.2009. The State Government has informed that so far, no funds have been released under CAMPA scheme for restoration of Kolleru Lake Wildlife Sanctuary. However, restoration of water channels for free flow of flood water into sea is being taken up by Irrigation Department with their departmental funds. Partially demolished bunds are being removed to form mounds over which planting of suitable species is being taken up to provide perches for the Kolleru birds.

Conflict of interest for members of expert committee on Bt. Brinjal

2654. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three members of the expert committee (EC2) set up by GEAC which looked into the public concerns on Bt. Brinjal had been directly involved in the development or biosafety assessment of Bt. Brinjal; and

(b) if so, whether it is not a clear case of conflict of interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) None of the expert committee (EC2) members set up by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) have been involved in the development of Bt brinjal expressing event EE-I developed by M/s Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company Ltd. (Mahyco), Tamil Nadu Agriculture University, Coimbatore and University of Agriculture Sciences, Dharwad. As authorized by the GEAC, large scale field trials with Bt brinjal expressing event EE-I was conducted under the supervision of Director, Indian Institute of Vegetable Research (IIVR) Varanasi. IIVR is a national level vegetable research institute under the aegis of the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR). The studies have been conducted by IIVR with the support and full knowledge of Director General, ICAR and Deputy Director General (Horticulture), ICAR. All members of the Expert Committee are experts from public sector Institutions. Therefore, no conflict of interest is envisaged.

Pending proposals of Orissa and Chhattisgarh

†2655. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals pertaining to Orissa and Chhattisgarh pending for preview;

(b) the possible planned preview dates for each proposal; and

(c) the details of the hindrance, if any, therein?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.